



# Medical Service Corps Celebrating 90 Years of Service



This year the Medical Service Corps celebrates its 90th Anniversary. The MSC has a long and distinguished history. Precursors such as the Revolutionary War apothecaries, Civil War officers of the Ambulance Corps and the Army Medical Storekeepers led to the establishment of the Sanitary Corps on 30 June 1917 during World War I. The Sanitary Corps rapidly grew to nearly 3,000 officers during the War and enabled the relief of physicians from a variety of administrative, technical and scientific duties. An unbroken chain, from 1917 to the present day links the Sanitary Corps as the oldest direct antecedent of the MSC and is the cause for our celebrating its establishment as the MSC birthday.

World War I also demonstrated the necessity for medical administrative officers. As a result, the Medical Administrative Corps was established on 4 June 1920. The number of MAC officers remained small until World War II when it expanded to nearly 20,000 officers. A third MSC precursor, the Pharmacy Corps, was established as a Regular Army branch on 12 July 1943. On 4 August 1947, Congress, acting upon lessons learned about the requirement for officers in medical administrative and scientific specialties, merged the Sanitary Corps, Medical Administrative Corps, and the Pharmacy Corps into the Medical Service Corps.

As World War II ended, the Cold War with the Soviet Union was beginning. MSCs played a vital role in supporting the Army during the Korean War. During the Vietnam War, MSCs, flying the newly introduced UH-1 Huey, built on lessons from World War II and Korea to bring Medical Evacuation doctrine to maturity.

Since the end of the Cold War, MSCs have participated in military deployments supporting actions in Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo. The tempo of deployments accelerated dramatically in 2001 following the 9/11 Al Qaeda attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The United States quickly deployed to Afghanistan to strike the Al Qaeda threat in that country, followed by the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Both military operations that are ongoing.

Today, MSC commissioned and warrant officers in 25 specialties continue a tradition of distinguished service in a Corps that is one of the most complex in the Army. Their contributions are manifold. MSCs pioneered the professional growth of Army hospital administration, and MSC aviators continue to build upon the legacy established during Vietnam. MSC administrative specialty officers are essential in the management of every echelon of the Army medical establishment. They maintain the Army's wartime medical capability in command and staff positions at all levels of field medical units, and they operate a logistics system that continues to demonstrate superb performance. MSC scientific specialty officers have made world-class contributions in clinical care and medical research and development. In countless ways, the men and women of the MSC remain at the forefront of U.S. military capability, serving their nation with talent, dedication and energy.

